

PRIVILEGED AND ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ MEMORANDUM

DETERMINED TO BE AN ADMINISTRATIVE
MARKING Per E.O. 12958 as amended, Sec. 3.3 (c)

Initials: JGP Date: 12/16/11
2006-0885-1F1

TO: Hillary Rodham Clinton
FR: Chris Jennings
RE: Tuesday Meeting with Congressman McDermott
cc: Melanne, Steve, Lorraine

April 28, 1993

Tomorrow morning, you are scheduled to meet with Congressman McDermott. This meeting is a follow-up to your conversation with him yesterday. Cultivating a good and close relationship with the Congressman is becoming more and more important to us. Our House target list is filled with single-payer advocates, many of whom will look to him for a sign-off. Therefore, as difficult as it probably will be, we need to keep him happy and on our side.

The discussion will be attended by his staff, Barbara Smith, Melanne, Ira, and myself. (A reminder: Barbara is the daughter-in-law of Ross Smith -- the owner of Smith Ford Motors in Conway, Arkansas and an early and major campaign supporter. Barbara's husband, David, was a long-time aide to Senator Pryor. Lastly, Barbara is the best friend of the wife of Ted Kennedy).

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Last week, at a House Democratic Caucus meeting, Congressman McDermott asked to address the Members after Lois Quam (one of Ira's Working Group Members) made a presentation. He spoke at some length about how the single payer system was so much easier to describe than the plan he thought the Administration would be proposing. He then stressed the importance of a clear and defined message for any plan that emerges. Many Members and staff who attended felt he was grandstanding and being less than helpful to the White House. His staff says that he was merely outlining the principles he feels are necessary to gain his and his followers' support of any plan.

Tonight, Congressman McDermott plans to give a House floor statement regarding health care reform. I have requested copies of both his statement and his health care plan evaluation principles. I hope and expect that they will arrive shortly and that Kim will be able to place them behind this memo.

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The major issues at the forefront of Congressman McDermott's mind continue to appear to be assuring that everyone is in the system (no opt-outs for self-insured populations) and assuring that all providers have the opportunity ("willing providers") to participate in the reformed system. He also may want to discuss obstacles to state-based single payer options. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, the Congressman will want to discuss the politics of health care (as he views them today) and his potential role in the upcoming debate.

SUGGESTED APPROACH TO MEETING

As with all Members, and particularly Congressman McDermott, the goal at this meeting is to make him feel we are listening to him and desirous of his guidance. In this vein, you should consider throwing anything he throws at you as a complication right back at him with a question. Then, if you have concerns about his suggested approach, you can address it with him directly. (This way, you don't allow him the opportunity to pick apart anything before you have had a chance to hear and analyze his alternatives).

Lastly, as staged and as presumptuous as this is, I might suggest that you consider throwing out all of the staff at the end of the meeting to hold a five minute private meeting with him. This will signal to him the closeness of your relationship with him, and the value you place on his confidential advice. (The subject could be on virtually anything.)